

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03435 181436Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSM-03 /080 W  
-----100485 181444Z /53

R 181400Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4603  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3435

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, LE  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: VIEWS OF SHIA MUFTI

1. SHEIKH ABDUL AMIR KABALAN, SHIA MUFTI OF BEIRUT, CALLED ON ME JULY 18 IN COMPANY FORMER AMBASSADOR HASIB ABDALLAH, WHO IS FROM KHIAM. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO ASK THAT US INTERVENE TO SAVE SHIA OF THE SOUTH WHOM MUFTI CHARACTERIZED AS BEING TORN BETWEEN TEETH OF A SAW MANIPULATED BY THE ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS. KABALAN'S REMARKS NOT GREATLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE I HAVE BEEN HEARING FROM ALL SIDES IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT A COUPLE OF POINTS WORTH NOTING.

2. I ASKED KABALAN WHETHER AREA WOULD HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL TODAY WERE IT NOT FOR CHRISTIAN RIGHTISTS AND THEIR ISRAELI SUPPORT. HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT THE PALESTINIANS NOW OCCUPYING THE AREA HAD BEEN AND STILL WERE OPPRESSING PEOPLE AND HE DID NOT BLAME CHRISTIANS FOR TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST THEM. PROBLEM FOR SHIA WAS DIFFERENT HOWEVER. PEOPLE EXPECTED CHRISTIANS TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL, BUT PEOPLE WOULD NOT ACCEPT MOSLEM COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL. SHIA WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN THIS RESPECT BY PALESTINIANS, WHO ALLOWED CHRISTIANS FROM QULAYLA TO  
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CULTIVATE THEIR GROUND OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE BUT WOULD NOT DO THE SAME FOR SHIA OF KHIAM, WHOM THEY ACCUSED OF BEING AGENTS OF ISRAELIS. INDEED, SHIA WERE ACCUSED BY CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS OF BEING AGENTS OF PALESTINIANS AND ACCUSED BY PALESTINIANS OF BEING AGENTS OF ISRAELIS. ALL THEY WANTED TO DO WAS TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH THEIR CHRISTIAN BRETHERN AND BE RID OF THE PALESTINIANS.

AMBASSADOR ABDALLAH SAID SITUATION SO DESPERATE TODAY WITH 350,000 SHIA HAVING FLED AREA (THIS IS HIGHEST FIGURE TO DATE) THAT IF REFERENDUM WERE HELD, PEOPLE OF SOUTH WOULD OPT TO BE UNDER ISRAELI RULE RATHER THAN PALESTINIANS. SHEIKH KABALAN NODDED AGREEMENT.

3. I ASKED WHAT HAD HAPPENED AT YARIN. HE SAID PALESTINIANS HAD COME TO VILLAGE AND TAKEN AWAY FOUR VILLAGERS WHOM THEY ACCUSED OF BEING AGENTS OF ISRAEL. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FAMILIES OF THE FOUR HAD GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH CHRISTIAN FORCES, WHO HAD SENT IN SMALL UNIT COMPOSED OF FOUR "MACHINES" AND A JEEP WHICH HAD SPRAYED THE VILLAGE WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE AND DESTROYED A NUMBER OF HOUSES. CHRISTIANS HAD ARRIVED AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN MORNING AND LEFT AT TWO O'CLOCK IN AFTERNOON. THEY HAD EXECUTED PEOPLE AS WELL AS HITTING THEM WITH INDISCRIMATE FIRE. THERE WAS NOBODY LEFT IN YARIN TODAY. THIS INCIDENT HAD COME AT A TIME WHEN CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SHIA WERE ALREADY GETTING INCREASINGLY HOSTILE AND CLIMATE BETWEEN TWO SECTS WAS DETERIORATING BADLY.

PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, IS, LE, (KABALAN, SHEIKH ABDUL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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